

120 THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE PHILIPPINES

pine Mission composed of Messrs. Osmena, Roxas, Montinola, Sabido, and Tirona, and Resident Commissioners Guevara and Osias, to urge an early grant of independence. Also there came to testify witnesses from the various American elements which considered themselves adversely affected by the competition afforded by the Islands' industries and Filipino labor. Hardly a discordant note was heard in the chorus which chanted the refrain for Philippine independence. Yet the process of drafting a bill which would appease the conflicting claimants of economic advantage was not easy. Eventually the Committees submitted nearly identical reports with recommendations for discharging American obligations to the Philippines.

Still the fight was far from won. Congress was liberal-minded, but Secretary of State Henry L. Stimson, recently Governor-General of the Philippines, and Secretary of War Patrick Hurley, with jurisdiction over the Philippines, were outspoken in opposition to the bill; naturally their disapproval was thought to reflect that of President Hoover. At that time Senator Harry B. Hawes was an influential member of the Senate Committee on Territories and Insular Affairs. He was sincerely and enthusiastically in favor of giving the Filipinos their independence and after visiting the Philippines was more than ever convinced that his stand was right. On his return to the United States from his Oriental odyssey, the Senator argued his case with even greater vigor. The genesis of the bill then introduced and finally agreed

upon went
back to its predecessor, the first Hawes-Cutting
Bill of 1929,
which in turn could be traced as the lineal
descendant of the
Fairfield Bill of 1924.

After three years of effort the lower House
approved the
bill, under suspension of its rules, following
forty minutes
of inconsequential debate, while in the upper
House all oppo-
sition including filibustering was crushed. The
question then